

**DECLARATION AND
POWER OF ATTORNEY
(Utility Patent Application)**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below), of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING A FLUID SAMPLE ALIQUOT

the specification of which:

is attached hereto
 was filed on _____ as Application Serial
No. _____ with amendment(s) filed

 was filed as PCT international application:
serial number _____ on _____
and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Section 119 of Title 35, United States Code for the above-identified US patent application based on the patent or inventor's certificate identified below and having a filing date before that of the US patent application for which priority is claimed:

Application No. Country Filing Date

Priority Claimed
under 35 U.S.C. §119

I hereby claim the benefit under Section 120 and/or Section 119(e) of Title 35 of the United States Code of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by Section 112 of Title 35 of the United States Code, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information, as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Patented</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Abandoned</u>	<u>Status</u>
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Power of attorney:

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint:

John C. Pokotylo (Reg. No. 36,242)
Michael P. Straub (Reg. No. 36,941)

as my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

First inventor:

Full name: Ito _____ Ralph _____ K. _____
last first middle

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Signature: Ralph K. Ito

Date: 9/17/1999